

Health Considerations among Arrivals from Afghanistan – Hepatitis A

November 18, 2021

Cases of hepatitis A have been recently diagnosed among Afghan evacuees arriving in the United States. The hepatitis A virus (HAV) is very contagious and can spread via contaminated food or drinks or close contact with an infected person.

Providers caring for recent arrivals should be vigilant for symptoms of hepatitis A, including:

- Fever
- Jaundice
- Malaise
- Anorexia
- Nausea
- Abdominal discomfort
- Dark urine

Older children and adults are more likely to exhibit symptoms. Children are more likely to have mild symptoms.

When HAV is diagnosed among a patient, post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) should be administered to all non-immune persons (those who have not been previously infected or vaccinated) in close contact with the infected patient within 14 days of last exposure. PEP should not be delayed if vaccine or medical records are not available.

Please see attached the following advisories and guidance:

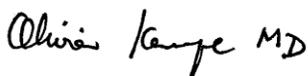
1. Department of Health & Human Services: “News/Updates: Health Recommendations and Considerations for Arrivals from Afghanistan – Multiple Locations, 2021”
2. CDPH Hepatitis A Public Health Investigation Guidance
3. CDPH Hepatitis A Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Guidance

[Report](#) cases of vaccine preventable diseases per [Title 17](#) California Code of Regulations to Sacramento County Public Health. Hepatitis A should be reported within one working day of identification.

Resources

1. Refugee Health Clinic (SCPH): <https://dhs.saccounty.net/PRI/Pages/Refugee%20Health/GI-Refugee-Health.aspx>
2. Office of Refugee Health (CDPH): <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/ORH/Pages/Home.aspx>
3. Reportable Diseases and Conditions (SCPH): <https://dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/Reportable-Diseases-and-Conditions.aspx>

Sincerely,



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